

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PHNOM 01915 311210Z

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ACTION EA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9142

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 1915

FOR ASST SECY HABIB FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: (0*94, EAID, CB, US

SUBJECT: ARGUMENTS TO USE WITH CONGRESS IN SUPPORT OF SUPPLEMENTAL
AIR REQUEST

1. I NOTE FROM WIRELESS FILE THAT YOU ARE PRESENTLY
TESTIFYING BEFORE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES ON SUPPLEMENTAL
AID REQUESTS FOR VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA. IN EFFORT TO HELP
YOU REBUT POSSIBLE CRITICISMS ON CAMBODIA, I VOLUNTEER
FOLLOWING ARGUMENTATION:

A. "FANK WASTES AMMUNITION." TO COUNTER THIS CHARGE,
YOU MAY WISH TO POINT OUT THAT THE AMMUNITION CONSERVATION
PROGRAM INITIATED BY FANK LAST FALL HAD REDUCED DAILY AVERAGE
AMMUNITION ISSUES DRASTICALLY. FOR OCTOBER THE AVERAGE
DAILY ISSUE WAS 297 SHORT TONS. FOR NOVEMBER IT WAS 345
SHORT TONS PER DAY. AND FOR DECEMBER 310 SHORT TONS PER
DAY. THIS AVERAGE DAILY ISSUE INCREASED IN JANUARY
AS A RESULT OF THE INCREASED FIGHTING CAUSED BY THE
KC OFFENSIVE, AND STANDS NOW AT 565 SHORT TONS PER
DAY. HOWEVER, THIS SHOULD BE COMPARED WITH JANUARY 1974,
WHEN THE AVERAGE DAILY AMMUNITION ISSUE AMOUNTED TO
800 TONS. IN SHORT, FANK WAS ABLE TO REDUCE AMMUNITION
EXPENDITURES WHEN THERE WAS LESS INTENSE FIGHTING IN
THE FALL, AND EVEN TODAY, WITH THE ENEMY OFFENSIVE, IS
STILL EXPENDING CONSIDERABLY LESS AMMUNITION THAN IT DID
LAST YEAR DURING A SIMILAR PERIOD.

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PAGE 02 PHNOM 01915 311210Z

B. "THE ENEMY IS FIGHTING WITH UNSOPHISTICATED WEAPONS"

THIS IS A LOT OF BALONEY, AS THE MORE THAN FOUR HUNDRED 107 MM ROCKETS FIRED AGAINST PHNOM PENH SINCE JANUARY 1 CLEARLY INDICATED. THESE 107 ROCKETS ARE CHINESE-MADE AND THE KHMER ROUGE APPEAR TO HAVE AMPLE SUPPLIES WHICH ARE BEING USED INDISCRIMINATELY AGAINST PHNOM PENH AND AGAINST MEKONG RIVER CONVOYS.

C. "FANK HAS DIFFICULTY KEEPING MEKONG OPEN TO NAVIGATION." THIS IS TRUE, BUT IS PARTIALLY THE RESULT OF KHMER ROUGE USING HEAVIER WEAPONS THAN BEFORE AGAINST CONVOYS. AT PRESENT TIME KHMER ROUGE ARE FIRING 107 ROCKETS AND CHINESE 75 RECOILLESS RIFLE ROUNDS IN ADDITION TO THE B40 AND B41'S WHICH THEY HAVE USED IN THE PAST. THE ESCALATION IN WEAPONRY BY KC HAS LED TO INCREASED VESSEL LOSSES AND CASUALTIES BY THE KHMER NAVY, WHOSE CRAFT WERE NOT BUILT TO RESIST THESE HEAVIER WEAPONS. AS A RESULT, MORE KHMER NAVY CRAFT HAVE BEEN SUNK AND DAMAGED THAN BEFORE WHICH NEED TO BE REPLACED TO KEEP MEKONG OPEN.

D. "THE GKR IS A CORRUPT, INEFFICIENT ORGANIZATION." WHILE THE GKR HAS VISIBLE DRAWBACKS WHICH ARE WELL PUBLICIZED, NEVERTHELESS THE KHMER PEOPLE CONTINUE TO CHOOSE THIS SIDE TO TAKE REFUGE WHEN THEY HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY RATHER THAN GO OVER TO THE OTHER SIDE. SINCE THE COMMUNIST OFFENSIVE STARTED JAN. 1, MORE THAN 60,000 REFUGEES HAVE COME OVER TO THIS SIDE. PRIMARILY THEY ARE FLEEING THE FIGHTING, BUT THEY CHOOSE TO COME INTO THE CITIES WHICH ARE BEING SHELLED, MORTARED AND ROCKETED INSTEAD OF TREKKING DEEPER INTO KC TERRITORY OR NO-MAN'S-LAND BEYOND. AS FAR AS WE CAN TELL, HARDLY ANY KHMERS HAVE DECIDED TO GO OVER TO THE KC SIDE. THE BRUTAL MASSACRE BY THE KC OF 50 INNOCENT OLD MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN AT ANG SNOUL WAS VIVIDLY DESCRIBED ON CBS TELEVISION ON JANUARY 4. DESPITE GKR'S FLAWS, THE KHMER POPULATION CONTINUES TO VOTE WITH THEIR FEET FOR THIS SIDE.

E. "AMERICAN ASSISTANCE MERELY PROLONGS THE WAR." THE KHMER REPUBLIC'S ARMED FORCES ARE CURRENTLY (AND CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PHNOM 01915 311210Z

PRACTICALLY ALWAYS HAVE BEEN) IN A STRICTLY DEFENSIVE POSTURE. THEIR MAIN MISSION IS TO TRY TO PROTECT THE FIVE MILLION PLUS KHMERS WHO LIVE IN THE TERRITORIES THEY CONTROL. THE GKR IS NOT USING OUR MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO CARRY THE FIGHT TO THE ENEMY BUT ONLY TO ASSURE ITS OWN SURVIVAL. TERMINATING AMERICAN ASSISTANCE WOULD CERTAINLY END THE WAR, AS IT WOULD FORCE THE SIDE WE SUPPORT TO SURRENDER TO THE KHMER

ROUGE. WHAT PROLONGS THE WAR IS THE OTHER SIDE'S
CONTINUING DETERMINATION TO TRY TO WIN A MILITARY
VICTORY OVER THE CAMBODIANS OF THE KHMER REPUBLIC,AND
THEIR REFUSAL TO RESPOND TO THE GKR'S REPEATED OFFERS
TO UNDERTAKE IMMEDIATE AND UNCONDITIONAL NEGOTIATIONS
TOWARD A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF THE CONFLICT.

2. THERE IS SOME GOOD MATERIAL ON THE MILITARY SITUATION
IN CHMEDTC'S 290700Z JAN 75 THAT YOU MIGHT FIND USEFUL
FOR YOUR SESSIONS ON THE HILL.
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